

South Bottoms Historic District  
Goldstein-Kahem-Knaub House  
701 South 1st Street  
Lincoln  
Lancaster County  
Nebraska

HABS No. NE-43-A

HABS  
NEB,  
55- LINE,  
6A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

HABS  
NEB,  
55-LINC  
6A-

GOLDSTEIN-KAHM-KNAUB HOUSE

Location: 701 South 1st Street, Lincoln,  
Lancaster, Co., Nebraska  
(South Bottoms Historic District)

Present Owner: City of Lincoln

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of  
Significance: The Goldstein-Kahm-Knaub house is of  
a type which was popular among German-  
Russians, as it closely resembles Old  
World types in plan and massing. Though  
built by a Wisconsin German, these shared  
characteristics mark it nonetheless as an  
important house type in the district.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Original and Subsequent Owners: Lots 5 & 6, Eaton's  
Subdivision, City of Lincoln

1888 Plat No. 434 June 8, 1888, Book 2 page 206, Lots 1-12  
Annie J. Eaton & O. W. Eaton  
to  
the public

1888 Deed June 14, 1888, Book 59 page 356, Lots 3-9 (p)10  
Annie J. Eaton & O. W. Eaton  
to  
Lincoln Pottery Co.  
\$10,000

1896 Warranty Deed February 13, 1896, Book 85 page 325,  
Lots 3-9 (p)10  
Lincoln Pottery Co. et al to First National Bank,  
to  
First National Bank, Lincoln, Nebraska  
\$3,000

1901 Sheriff's Deed May 20, 1901, Book 91 page 579,  
Lots 3-9 (p)10  
B. S. Branson, Sheriff to  
to  
First National Bank, Lincoln, Nebraska  
\$905  
(Bought at public auction after Pottery Company  
defaulted on payments)

Quitclaim Deed June 20, 1901, Book 103 page 301,

- Lots 3-9 (p)10  
First National Bank, Lincoln  
to  
Webster Eaton  
\$860
- 1905      Warranty Deed July 24, 1905, Book 127 page 41, Lots 5-6  
Webster Eaton & Wife (Nellie)  
to  
Charles Goldstein & Wife (Anna)  
\$300
- 1905      Mortgage August 10, 1905, Book 146 page 39, Lots 5-6  
Charles Goldstein & Wife (Anna)  
to  
Lazard Cahn  
\$150
- 1909      Warranty Deed September 15, 1909, Book 158 page 441,  
Lots 5-6  
Charles Goldstein & Wife (Anna)  
to  
Jacob & Katie Kahem  
\$950
- 1918      Warranty Deed August 13, 1918, Book 199 page 416,  
Lots 5-6  
Jacob Kahem & Wife (Katie)  
to  
Henry Klein  
\$905
- 1918      Relinquish Damages August 13, 1918, Book V page 99,  
Lots 5-6  
Jacob Kahem & Wife (Katie)  
to  
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad  
\$400  
"Whereas, the undersigned releasors and grantors  
claim that the grades and embankments of releasee's  
railroad, where it crosses or runs upon and along  
the valleys of Salt and Middle Creeks near the City  
of Lincoln, Nebraska, in the County of Lancaster,  
Nebraska obstructs the flow of waters, causing it to  
back up and overflow over and upon the lands and lots  
which the releasors reside upon or cultivate, and  
that the crops, whether grain or grass, and the  
shrubbery, buildings and personal property therein  
and thereon, would not be injured or destroyed if  
the grades and embankments of said railroad were not  
there and negligently constructed."  
(General improvements made and completed on the  
railroad grades and embankments)
- 1918      Mortgage August 21, 1918, Book 229 page 231, Lots 5-6

Henry Klein et al  
to  
Henry Wertz  
\$500

1920      Warranty Deed March 18, 1920, Book 222 page 365,  
          Lots 5-6  
          Henry Klein & Wife (Elizabeth)  
          to  
          Jacob Knaub  
          \$1315

1920      Mortgage March 18, 1920, Book 241 page 230, Lots 5-6  
          Jacob Knaub & Wife (Mary)  
          to  
          Henry J. Amen  
          \$700

1928      Mortgage May 24, 1928, Book 319 page 398, Lots 5-6  
          Jacob Knaub & Wife (Mary)  
          to  
          Henry J. Amen  
          \$200

1929      Warranty Deed February 20, 1929, Book 371 page 312,  
          Lots 5-6  
          George Maser et al  
          to  
          Maria Knaub  
          \$1 Love and Affection

1929      Warranty Deed July 13, 1939, Book 325 page 338,  
          Lots 5-6  
          Mary Knaub (widow)  
          to  
          Jacob Knaub  
          \$10 per month for grantor's lifetime

1939      Contract Book 19 page 184, Lots 5-6  
          Recorded July 14, 1939  
          Mary Knaub  
          to  
          Jacob Knaub

1948      Award Certificate December 20, 1948, Book 509 page 92  
          Lots 5-6  
          Department of Assistance  
          to  
          Maria Knaub  
          Old Age Assistance

1960      Release Assistance Lien July 19, 1960, Book 779  
          page 60, Lots 5-6  
          Lancaster County Board  
          to

Maria Knaub

Affidavit Book 78 page 263, Lots 5-6  
Recorded August 8, 1960  
Jacob & Anna Knaub as to possession

- 1962 Notice of Line October 4, 1961, Book 834 page 617  
Lots 5-6  
Director of County Relief  
to  
Mary Knaub
- 1970 Warranty Deed November 27, 1970, Book 70 page 13041  
Lots 5-6  
Jacob Knaub & wife (Anna Julia)  
to  
Claude Kage Sr. & Edna Arabelle  
\$1
- 1974 Warranty Deed December 6, 1974, Book 75 page 138  
Lots 5-6  
Claude Kage & Wife (Edna Arabelle)  
to  
Danny Lee Kage & Wife (Janet E.)  
\$1 Love and Affection
- 1979 Mortgage November 15, 1979, Book 79 page 30647  
Lots 5-6  
Danny Lee Kage Sr. & Wife (Janet E.)  
to  
Beneficial Finance Co.  
\$4,065.78
- 1981 Mortgage (Deed trust) June 26, 1981, Book 81  
page 11885, Lots 5-6  
Danny Lee Kage Sr. & Wife (Janet E.)  
to  
Beneficial Finance Co..  
\$5,9888.87
- 1981 Release (79-30647) July 8, 1981, Book 81  
page 12837, Lots 5-6  
Beneficial Finance Co.  
to  
Danny Lee Kage Sr. & Wife (Janet E.)
- 1981 Reconveyance June 26, 1981, Book 86 page 8853  
Lots 5-6  
First American Title Insurance Co.  
to  
Danny Lee Kage & Janet E. Kage
- 1986 Warranty Deed March 12, 1986,  
Danny Lee Kage Sr. & wife (Janet)  
to

City of Lincoln  
\$12,500

2. Date of Erection: Before 1907.

3. Alterations and Additions: Originally located at 143 J Street, the house was moved to the present site c.1907 to make way for the new Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad main line. Subsequent exterior alterations include removal of the porch which extended across the front of the house, closing in two windows in the west wall of the kitchen, and closing in an exterior entrance connecting the back porch with the dining/living area.

Interior alterations include inserting a wall in the room directly north of the kitchen to create a bathroom and small chamber (c.1963). Several interior walls have been covered with plywood paneling.

4. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure: Jacob and Katie Kahem (also spelled Kahm, Kem, Kahn) purchased the house in 1909 shortly after it was moved to its present site. Living with them was John Frie, a brother-in-law, and three boarders. All of the residents had immigrated from Russia between 1904 and 1910. The men were listed in the Lincoln City Directory as laborers; two at a freight house and two at the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. The place of work of the fifth man was not specifically noted. Jacob Kahem also spent two years in the beet fields of western Nebraska. This was a common summer occupation for German-Russians and their families.

The Kahems are recorded as living at the residence with Henry Klein and his family in 1913. Mr. Klein worked as a laborer in a greenhouse. He had immigrated from Russia in 1907. His wife immigrated from Russia in 1909. The South Bottoms was a close knit community and families living together with boarders was not at all uncommon.

Anna Knaub lived in the house with her husband, children and parents-in-law in the 1920's. Anna was from a Canadian background and married into a German-Russian family. She mentions the close relationship of the people including the fact that her mother-in-law's two sisters lived on the same block with their families. The Knaub family lived in the house from 1921 to 1960. The house was later owned and occupied by the Kage family.

#### ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

1. Architectural Interest and Merit: The Goldstein-Kahem-Knaub house is an example of an American vernacular type which was selected by German-Russians because of its strong formal and spatial similarities with Old World houses. Though built by a Wisconsin German, the house on its current site has been

significantly associated with Volga settlement. Its principal massing characteristics associate it with an architectural group that accounts for approximately 10% of the housing stock in the South Bottoms Historic District. The attic and cellar storage areas, as well as the proximity to the non-extant summer kitchen, mark the adaptation of the house to the German-Russian occupation.

2. Condition of the Fabric: Poor (to be demolished).

3. Summary Description: The Goldstein-Kahem-Knaub House is a one-story nearly square mass, measuring approximately seven by seven and one half meters, covered with a truncated pyramidal roof. Extending from the rear (west) of the core is a wing with gable roof, to which is attached on the north a shed-roofed tier of small rooms and on the south a shed-roofed open porch. The entire house rests on a slightly raised foundation.

4. Description of Exterior: The front of the house is symmetrically arranged in three bays, with the entrance in the center. The remains of a foundation mark the location of a recent small uncovered stoop.

Exterior walls of the entire house are sheathed with car siding. The exterior walls of the main core are enframed with plain board corner pilasters and wide board cornice and water table. Window and door openings are enframed with plain wood trim and crowned by a simple wood molding. Windows are double-hung single pane wood sash.

Structurally the house is of simple wood frame construction. Foundations throughout, including the rear porch, are brick from footing to sill.

5. Description of Interior: Only a crawl space exists under the main core of the house. The area beneath the west wing has been excavated to a low room height.

The main level of the core is a simple, four room plan consisting of a wide tier of formal parlor and dining/living area on the south and a narrow tier of bedrooms on the north. The wing extending to the west contains a kitchen, small adjacent chamber and bathroom on the main level. Storage space is located both in the basement below this wing (accessed by stairs covered with a door in the floor of the rear porch) and attic above (accessed by ladder through a small exterior door in the west gable). Regular door openings provide access between rooms, except between the formal parlor and dining/living where a wide opening (with curtain holders) provides access.

Original interior finishes consist of lath and plaster. The woodwork is plain and is finished with paint.

6. Orientation, Setting and Outbuildings: The house is located

in the northwest portion of the South Bottoms Historic District and faces east on South 1st Street. The property is bounded by a vacant lot and railroad tracks on the north, a vacant lot on the west and the Popp-Fries House (documentation included) on the south.

None of the outbuildings originally occupying the site currently exist. The 1927 Sanborn map shows a summer kitchen located immediately behind the house. A portion of the sidewalk connecting house and summer kitchen remains intact. Other outbuildings included a barn and privy at the rear of the site. A garage, located south of the house, was added in 1927.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

##### Interviews:

Hanneman, Harold, Lincoln, Nebraska, nephew of Charles Goldstein (1905-1909 at 701 South First) and son of Frederick Hanneman (1905-1906 at 705 and 709 South First). Telephone conversation with Dave Murphy, Lincoln, Nebraska State Historical Society, August 20, 1986.

Knaub, Anna (1924-1943 at South First), Lincoln, Nebraska, wife of Jacob Knaub, and daughter, Shirley Lehl, Lincoln, Nebraska. Personal conversation with Anne Schafer, July 1986.

##### Records:

Building Permits, Building Permits and Inspections Administration, City of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Lancaster County Assessment Books and Tax Lists 1905-1929, County Assessor's Office, Lincoln, Nebraska, and State Archives, Nebraska State Historical Society.

Murphy, Dave and Kathleen Fimple, "South Bottoms Historic District, Lincoln, Nebraska," National Register of Historic Places - Inventory Nomination Form. Lincoln, Nebraska: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1986.

Photographs, Anna Knaub, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Polk's Lincoln City Directory, Lincoln, Nebraska: Polk-McAvoy, 1908 - .

Record of Deeds, Clerk of the County Court, Lancaster County, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Lincoln, Nebraska. New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1903, 1927.

US Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29 (Lancaster County), 624, Roll 849-B50. Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910.



Williams, Hattie Plum and Jacob J. Stroh, "Census of the German-Russian Population, Lincoln, Nebraska." Nebraska State Historical Society, Micro.#7369.

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